



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#24-0571

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: June 4, 2024

TITLE: Resolution Accepting a Legacy Gift in the Amount of \$1.5 Million from O.B. Tennis, LLC to Enhance Improvements to Jimmy Evert Tennis Center - **(Commission District 2)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Commission adopts a resolution and authorizes the Acting City Manager, or her designee, to execute a grant and facility use agreement between the City and O.B. Tennis, LLC (OBTLLC), in substantially the same form attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit 5, to accept a financial charitable contribution and grant in the amount of \$1.5 Million, to enhance improvements to the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center containing terms and conditions acceptable to the Acting City Manager, or her designee, and to execute any and all documents necessary and incidental thereto.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department has identified capital improvements to be made at the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center (JETC) under the Parks Bond. The USTA has expressed interest in making the JETC at Holiday Park the home of the Orange Bowl International Tennis Championship as well as hosting various tennis tournaments throughout the year.

In support of the Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships at JETC, the OBTLLC would enhance the City's scheduled improvements with an Orange Bowl Legacy Gift Project in the amount of \$1.5 Million Dollars.

\$3.5 million has been allocated from the Parks bond for enhancements to the JETC. Key improvements as part of the Parks Bond include a redesigned layout for improved circulation, a paved pathway between courts for enhanced accessibility, and state-of-the-art sub-surface irrigation systems (hydro-courts) for optimal playing conditions and sustainability. Additionally, three hard courts will be converted to clay, new fencing with dividers between courts will be installed, and court lighting will be upgraded to LED. A new Stadium Court with two hundred and ten (210) permanent seats will be constructed in the southeast corner of JETC, replacing the two (2) existing clay courts. As part of this

agreement, the City will name the Stadium court “Chris Evert Stadium Court,” and new shade structures will be added to accommodate all twenty clay courts.

To complement the Parks Bond improvements and in support of the Tennis Championships at JETC, the OBTLCC will provide the City with a multi-phase Legacy Gift Project. This includes phases for resurfacing and annual maintenance of the courts, with specific obligations outlined for the years 2026 to 2039 such as top-dressing of the twenty (20) clay courts and surface lift and laser grading every 5 years.

As part of the annual Orange Bowl International Tennis Championship, the OBTLCC, at their expense, will acquire and have installed at the Stadium Court an electronic tennis scoreboard which will include prominent branding elements featuring both “Chris Evert Stadium Court” and “Home of the [Name of Title Sponsor] Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships” and the ability to add another five hundred (500) temporary seats for the Annual Use Period.

In order to ensure the facility is ready for the first Orange Bowl International Tennis Championship, the OBTLCC is requesting that the City completes the improvements in the Parks Bond project no later than September 30, 2025.

This initiative represents a significant investment in the JETC, enhancing its status as a premier tennis facility and the home of the Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships.

Resource Impact

This action will result in a positive impact to the City. The value of in-kind services provided to the City is \$1.5 Million.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2024 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Public Places initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area, Goal 3: Build a beautiful and welcoming community

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Here

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- The Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Element
- Goal 6: Be a community with high quality parks and recreational facilities that highlight the character of our City.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Agreement Framework

Exhibit 2 – Stadium Court Example

Exhibit 3 – Holiday Park Tennis Complex Improvements

Exhibit 4 – Lighting Concept

Exhibit 5 – Agreement

Exhibit 6 – Resolution

Prepared by: Carolyn Bean, Parks and Recreation

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation